G. S. B. Sabha Dahisar - Borivali (Regd.)

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Tel.: 40144673, *Email*: gsbdb@rediffmail.com / sabha@gsbsabhadahisarborivali.org
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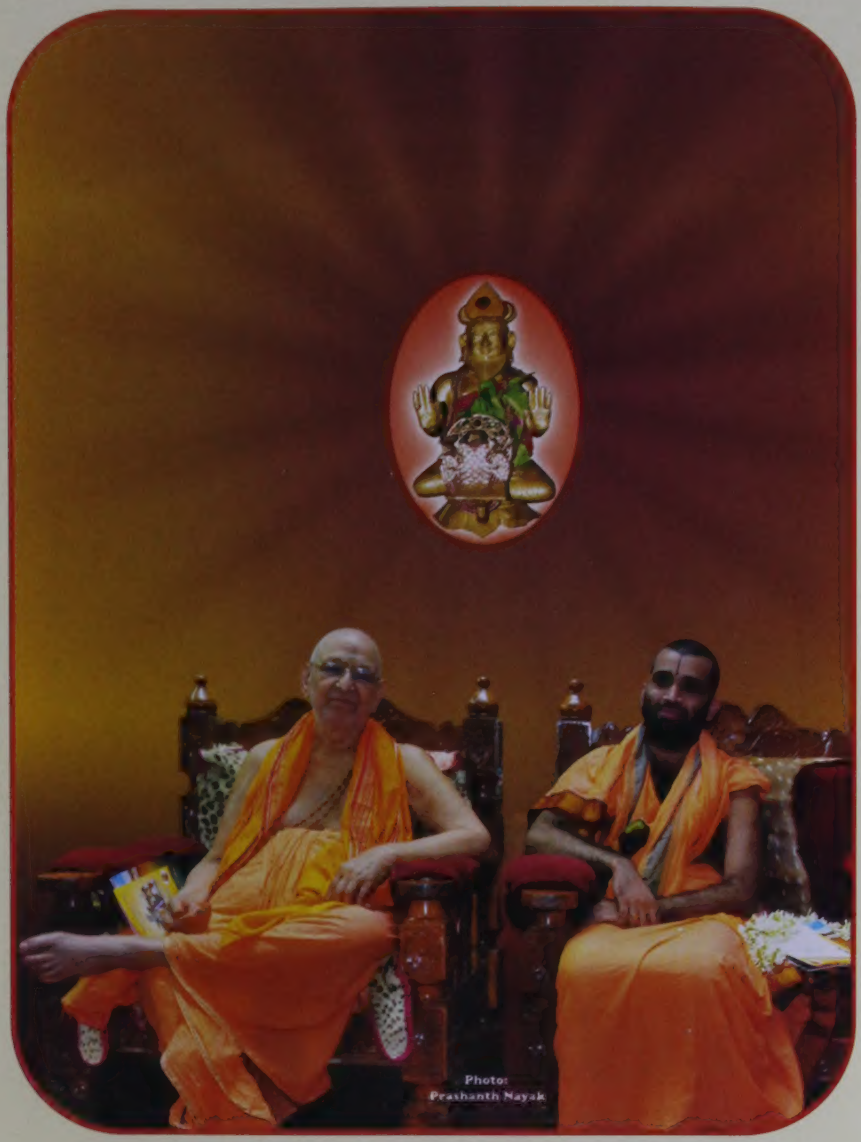


Deity of G. S. B. Sabha Dahisar - Borivali Samaj Mandir

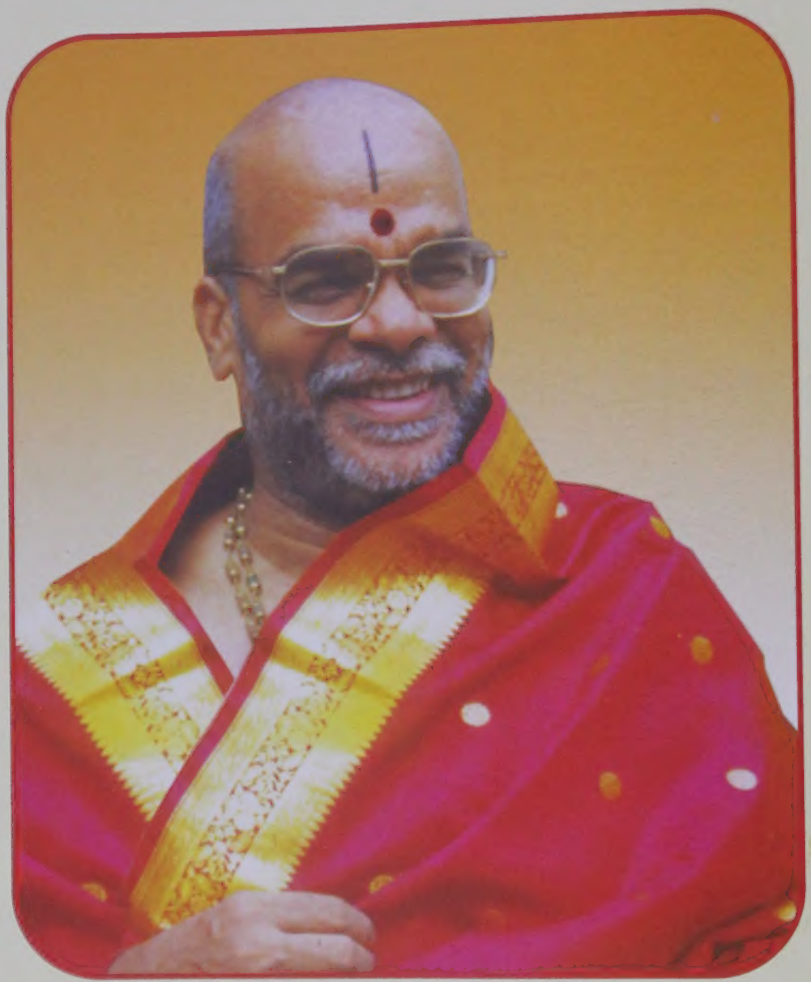
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MATHADHIPATI OF SRI KASHI MATH SAMSTHAN AND
PATTASHISHYA H. H. SHRIMAD SAMYAMEENDRA THIRTHA SWAMIJI
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H. H. SHRIMAD VIDYADHIRAJ TEERTH SWAMIJI

MATHADHIPATI OF SAMSTHAN SHREE GOKARN PARTAGALI

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For details refer page no. 55

FOREWORD



I take great pleasure to bring out this Souvenir of G.S.B. Sabha, Dahisar-Borivali for the successive fifth year. I am sure, you will concur with me that it is a useful medium through which Sabha can reach to its members and other public and convey Sabha's past performance, present perspectives and future plans.

The Sabha is very much committed not only to carry forward the good work initiated by certain devoted and socially-oriented members of our Community way back in 1986 but also anxious to widen the scope of our social objectives by increasing our activities while at the same time focus our attention on resource mobilisation.

I am of the conviction that all our achievements so far are attributable to valuable support extended, suitable and timely guidance and advice given by about one and a half millennium members of our Sabha and other resourceful members of our Community which paved the way to lay a strong foundation which in turn instils confidence in us to fulfil future plans. We reiterate that your participation and co-operation on an on-going basis is very much expedient. Two most important of several core objectives of the Sabha relate to extension of uninterrupted flow of educational support to economically deserving students the demand for which grows progressively year after year, and the second relates to completion of various items of work and provision of various facilities as stipulated by Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai while allotting 1.76 acres of land to us by the Corporation on adoption basis for developing it as recreation ground. It is needless to say that fulfilling these two priority objectives needs substantial financial support from our generous members.

As regards provision of uninterrupted financial assistance to deserving students, I with concurrence of Managing Committee and commitment from certain

benevolent members of our Community, have proposed to create endowment funds of ₹ 10 lakhs each in the names of respective donors in the form of Fixed Deposits with identified nationalised banks. The interest earned on these deposits would be utilised to meet educational requirements of selected and deserving students on a continuous basis. We have so far received firm commitments from five donors and we hope to get such commitment from five more generous donors by the turn of 2014.

I am sure, with full-hearted support of our Community members and other generous public together with unflinching voluntary service rendered by the members of our Managing Committee, we will accomplish the tasks ahead.

Dahisar, Mumbai
25th December, 2013

K.R. Mallya
(President)

Margashira Krishna Asthami
Vijaya Samvatsara

EDITORIAL



I take it as a privilege to edit the fifth consecutive issue of this souvenir "Saraswat Kusum" brought out by G.S.B. Sabha, Dahisar - Borivali, through which Sabha conveys its views and aspirations to its members and general public.

As in the past, this issue also covers biographical sketches of certain well-known personalities from G.S.B. Community who have distinguished themselves in their chosen professional fields and also have dedicated themselves to the cause of our Community and the society.

A separate feature that finds a prominent place in this issue relates to the progress made by Saraswat Cultural and Recreation Centre, a social and cultural wing of the Sabha with a specific role to provide certain important cultural, social and recreation facilities to the public on a plot of land allotted to the Sabha by Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai on adoption basis for developing as a recreation ground.

A special article relating to Brahma Rathotsava is also featured herein to give a fair idea on the subject with particular reference to six-day Brahma Rathotsava function celebrated with grandeur and religiosity for the first time by Dahisar Sri Kashi Math and Sri Vittal Rakhumai Mandir from 4th December to 9th December, 2013 in Dahisar (East), Mumbai.

I am sure, these, together with certain other features with photos of various functions would make this issue more colourful and informative reflecting Sabha's performance and perspectives for the future.

Dahisar, Mumbai.
25th December, 2013.

Ranjal Venkatraya Shenoy

Margashira Krishna Asthami
Vijaya Samvatsara

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Sabha Marches Ahead from Strength to Strength

G.S.B. Sabha Dahisar - Borivali marches ahead with greater strength and vigour drawing inspiration from the grace of Shree Satyanarayana and blessings of Swamijis and has been able to consolidate its position both resource-wise and activity-wise as it moves on from year to year.

It is well-known that the Sabha is fortunate enough to derive unstinted financial and moral support from its munificent members and elders of our Community. Further, it needs no reiteration that the dedicated service extended by the members of the Managing Committee and certain other members committed to the progress of the Sabha under its various activities deserves a special mention.

Broad objectives of the Sabha and a brief summary of its important activities vis-a-vis achievements under each head are given below.

Genesis

The Sabha was founded in 1986 by a score of dedicated and socially oriented members of our Community in Dahisar to address certain genuine social needs of which provision of educational support to economically deserving students was on the top of its agenda. In the initial years Sabha could not make much headway under most of its objectives though however, it got required fillip since 1994 when Sabha got registered from Registrar of Societies and Charity Commissioner as a consequence of which funds started flowing in, especially, for the noble cause of extending educational assistance to needy students.

Area of Operation

In the initial years, Sabha confined its activities to Dahisar and Borivali. However, over the years it has extended its operation to adjacent areas, albeit to a limited extent.

Membership

As on 31/03/2013 the Total membership of the Sabha stood at 1446 consisting of 169 Patrons and 1277 Life Members as compared to 166 Patrons and 1259 Life Members aggregating 1425 during the previous year.

Objectives

The Bye-laws of the Sabha specify following as the main objectives.

1. Education

Among the core objectives education is given the first priority by extending financial support to economically deserving students to pursue their basic education, initially confined up to Matriculation but subsequently extended to graduation level and very recently, even to technical and professional courses in exceptional cases to a very limited extent. The financial assistance covers not only tuition fee/other fees of schools/colleges but also cost of books, uniform etc., after thorough verification of the bills/receipts etc and after satisfying about the economic conditions of the parents / care-takers of applicant students.

During 2012-13 an aggregate amount of Rs.6.94 lakhs was disbursed to 58 students as against 5.73 lakhs to 56 students during 2011-12. The overall such assistance extended by the Sabha since its inception aggregated to Rs. 42.97 lakhs covering a total of 517 students. The Sabha could reach this respectable position only because of generous financial support extended by philanthropic members of our Community to whom the Sabha and the ultimate beneficiaries remain ever grateful.

Apart from this, Sabha also encourages meritorious students in curricular and co-curricular activities by recognising their merits and talents by honouring them with prizes at the Annual Get-together in December every year.

2. Social Activities

These refer to marriage assistance, medical assistance, matrimonial assistance and funeral services, among others, of which funeral services rendered by certain committed members deserves appreciation as they volunteer themselves for this work at any hour of the day/night.

3. Cultural Activities

a. Shree Satyanarayana Pooja and Annual Get-together

Celebration of Shree Satyanarayana Mahapooja together with its Annual Get-together on 25th December every year is the most important cultural activity of the Sabha since its inception. Certain illustrious members of our Community grace the Annual Get-together as Chief Guest and Guests of Honour through whom meritorious students both in curricular studies and extra-curricular activities are honoured by awarding prizes to encourage the students to perform better in their studies as also in other fields in future.

b. Navratri Festival

Navratri Festival is another important religious and cultural function being celebrated every year for the past six years with all festivity and religiosity.

c. Other important cultural activities are mainly celebration of Ram Navami, Haldi - Kumkum during Navratri, Tilgul on Makar Sankranti etc. All these functions are generally accompanied by Pooja and devotional songs.

Rigupakarma and distribution of sacred threads to our Community members is another important religious activity. Tulsi Pooja, as in the previous year was performed on 25/11/2012 at Saraswat Cultural and Recreation Centre.

d. Participation in Punarpratishtha of Kashi Math Samsthan Deity in Mangalore

Most of the Members of the Managing Committee of the Sabha and other members participated in Punarpratishtha of Kashi Math Samsthan deity at Kashi Math, Shri Venkatramana Temple,

Mangalore. Our committee members exhibited the tableau of Lord Vedavyas in the Digvijay procession which deserves appreciation and special mention.

e. Celebrations of Kojagiri Poornima on 29th October, 2012 and Holi Festival on 27th March, 2013 are some other cultural activities of the Sabha during this year, which are proposed to be celebrated with greater participation in the years to come.

Plans Ahead

The most important concern on which Sabha has been focusing its attention relates to development of 1.76 acres of land referred to above by providing various facilities as stipulated by the Corporation within the specified time frame. Details of items of work completed and those awaiting completion are given in a write-up on the subject separately in this issue.

Another important concern of the Sabha which is the first among the core objectives since its inception is related to provision of uninterrupted flow of educational assistance to deserving students of our Community for which the Sabha has been endeavouring to create a respectable return-generating and self-supporting corpus. Sabha is confident of achieving this laudable social objective with generous support from our donors. Efforts have already been made in this direction with positive response. Sabha is very much conscious of its commitments and endeavours to fulfil the same.

Managing Committee
G.S.B. Sabha, Dahisar - Borivali.

PRESENT MANAGING COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF G.S.C. SABHA DAHISAR – BORIVALI (REGD.)



Shri K.R. Mallya
President



Smt. Mohini S. Shanbhag
Vice President



Shri M. Uday Padiyar
Hon.Gen. Secretary



Shri S. Manohar V. Kamath
Jt. Secretary



Shri R.V. Shenoy
Jt. Secretary



Shri Mohan A. Kamath
Treasurer



Shri C.N. Pai
Jt. Treasurer



Shri P.S. Kamath
Member



Shri S.S. Kamath
Member



Shri B.M. Kamath
Member



Shri Keshav K. Kamath
Member



Shri S.J. Shanbhag
Member



Smt. Chandrakala S. Kamath
Member



Shri G. Damodar Nayak
Member



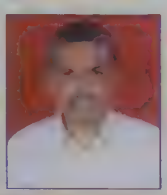
Shri Krishanand Shirali
Member



Shri Sudhir Narhari Shenoy
Member



Shri P.B. Bhandarkar
Member



Shri Hareshwar R. Kamath
Member



Smt. Suguna K. Kamath
Member



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Member



Shri Vinod Prabhu
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Shri Nagraj D. Nayak
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For details refer page no. 55

Annual Get-together 2013



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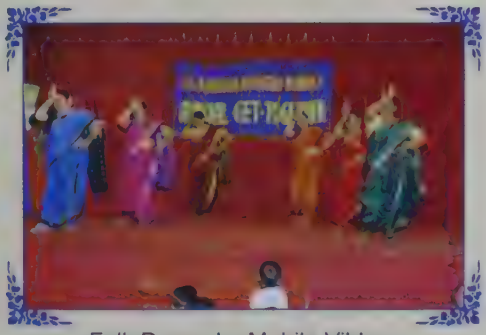
Audience Watching Variety Entertainment



Bharatnatyam by Youth wing



Classical Dance by youth wing



Folk Dance by Mahila Vibhag

Annual Get-together 2013



Guests watching Variety Entertainment



Western style dance by Youth wing



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Chief Guest being honoured by Shri K.R. Mallya



Chief Guest Shri Jagannath Shenoy distributing Merit Award



Guest Dr. Smt. Usha H.Heranjal distributing Merit Award

Annual Get-together 2013



Guest of Honour Shri Manohar Nayak distributing Merit Award



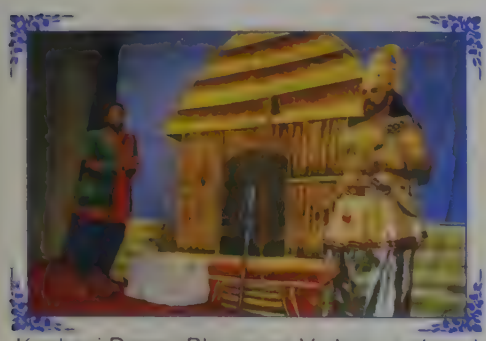
Guest of Honour Shri N.D. Shenoy distributing Merit Award



Shri Madhukar V Bhandarkar honoured by Chief Guest



Shri. Venkatesh N. Baliga distributing Merit Award



Konkani Drama Bhagavan Vedavyas played by Konkani Sanskritik Sangha, Mangalore



Konkani Drama played by Committee Members

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Saraswat Kusum

Salutations to Immortal Harikathakesari

By Ranjal Venkatraya Shenoy

(हरिदासाय अच्चुतदासाय मूलनाराय च नमो नमः)

(Haridasaya Achutadasaya Moolanarayanaya Cha Namo Namah)



While you were named by your parents, Achutadasa, Haridasa is the professional title acquired by you by dint of your professional skills and talents with which you have entertained and captivated the hearts of millions of people, Moolanarayana is honour bestowed on you by H.H. Shrimad Sudhindra Tirtha Swamiji, Mathadhipati of Sri Kashi Math Samsthan, Varanasi, in recognition of your ability and aptitude in composing small devotional poems / Kirtans in Konkani, Kannada and Marathi which respectable pen name you started using thereafter at the end of each of your poetical composition.

When you came to this world on March 23, 1932 in Bhadragiri, a village near Brahmavar of erstwhile South Kanara Dist. in Karnataka, neither your parents late Shri Venkatramana Pai and late Smt Rukmini Pai nor the people of your native place nor the G.S.B. Community in which you were born had dreamt that you would one day reach the pinnacle of glory in the art of Harikatha Kirtana, the most powerful and effective medium through which the divine message and the philosophy inherent in Hindu epics and other scriptures can be conveyed to common people in simple, intelligible and humourous manner thereby evoking devotion in God and encouraging the audience to lead a virtuous life.

Today, each and every soul in G.S.B. Community in particular and others in general know you as the unparellel name in your professional field as a result of which you were honoured with titles like Kirtanagraser, Kirtanacharya, Haridasa Kulabhooshana, Haridasa Kulatilaka etc. Though your brother late Shri Keshavdas Pai was also considered as a renowed Harikatha Kirtankar of your repute, since he had devoted much of his time performing abroad, especially in English during the latter part of his life, he became popular outside India while you dedicated your entire professional life spanning over six decades to the people of India and became an acclaimed professional in your chosen field.

At the very early age you had evinced great interest in Yakshagana as your father was a lover of this art and you developed immense fascination for Bhajans and Kirtans as your mother was a good singer and thus both your parents were instrumental in awakening in you the Harikirtankar in the nascent state.

The maiden opportunity which came your way unexpected and out of sheer accident was in the temple at Bhadragiri, when you had just crossed the threshold of eighteen years, to perform the first Harikatha which proved to be the litmus test of your ability to take up this noble profession. In fact, the credit for inspiring you to continue in this field was attributed to H.H. Shrimad Sudhindra Tirtha Swamiji who initiated you as Haridas. Suitable advice, proper guidance and hearty blessings from Swamiji had emboldened you to steer ahead on your chosen path with unabated quest to attain mastery in your profession bringing you name and fame as an acclaimed Haridasa and Harikatha Kirtankar over the years.

We, the millions of your admirers can never afford to forget your unassailable exposition on various subjects and topics from great Hindu epics, mainly Ramayana and Mahabharata and other scriptures, especially, Srimad Bhagavadgita. While dwelling on the main theme of the topic of your talk and unfolding the philosophy inherent in it you kept your audience attentive by citing instances and illustrations from the exemplary lives of historical figures making the topics lively, interesting, simple and easily intelligible even to rural masses. You were also gifted with the knack of taking the entire audience with you by liberal use of humour and quoting couplets, poems and sayings pregnant with profound meanings of renowned poets like Sarvajnya, Basaveshwara, Akka Mahadevi, Sant Kabir, immortal Mirabai etc. and also by reciting the melodious Kirtans and Abhangs from Sant Purandaradas, Sant Kanakadas, Sant Namdev, Tukaram etc accompanied by simple musical instruments. Even young and mischievous children were made attentive during presentation by telling stories befitting their age and level of understanding in the style they like and with appropriate body language. We remember many an occasion when tears swelled from your eyes while dwelling on topics conveying certain deepest human feelings making the

audience also to follow suit unknowingly. This is one of the most important attributes that distinguishes you from your contemporaries and also other professionals in the field irrespective of time and clime.

You parted this mortal world on Oct. 22, 2013, an auspicious day of Sankastha Chaturthi, leaving your admirers all over the world feeling your absence. Nevertheless, your loss is bearable to a certain extent as you have bequeathed to us rich heritage i.e. your invaluable literary works such as,

I. "Harikathamrita Sindhu", part 1, 2 and 3 in Kannada dealing with immortal epics like Ramayana, Mahabharata and Srimad Bhagawata respectively,

ii. "Gitarthachintane" in Kannada an exposition of Srimad Bhagawadgita in the light of Dwaita philosophy,

iii. Discourses on Akkamahadevi's "Divine Kirtan Katha", to mention a few.

Further, for propagation of your profession of Harikatha Kirtana for future generations you have trained quite a number of Kirtanakars in the Dasashram International Centre founded in Bangalore by your brother late Shri Keshavdas Pai but managed by you effectively later after his demise. In this direction you have also published a book, "Aruvattu Harikathe" (Sixty Harikathas) in your professional field thereby rendering yeoman service to the casue and continuation of Harikatha Parampara.

Though you were born in G.S.B. Community, you dedicated yourself with your professional exposition to all people irrespective of caste, creed, region and language and the entire nation is proud of you for your professional excellence and you have no parallel in this field till date. You have remained as strong as a mountain, just like the prefix to your name "Bhadragiri". Today when you cease to be amidst us, we stand in obeisance among millions of your lovers and admirers spread over the world and offer our salutations in utter sublimity, humility and reverence to your eternal soul.

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Shri Harischandra M. Kamath

A Great Socio – Religious Person



Some people are born or die on auspicious days, while some others enter this world or depart from here from holy places. However, the persons who quit this mortal world from a holy place (which is not their domicile) as also on an auspicious day are very rare. There was one such rare person who said good bye to all of us on a holy day from a sacred place was late Shri Harischandra Madhav Kamath who appears to have been chosen by Lord Venkateshwara to breathe his last within the main temple complex of Lord Balaji on the Tirumala Hills on the auspicious day of Holi.

1. Early Life

Late Shri Harischandra Kamath was born on 28 January 1928 to late Shri Madhav Kamath and late Smt. Gauri Kamath at Mulki in the erstwhile South Kanara Dist., Karnataka. Even without waiting to complete formal education upto High School level, he moved to Mumbai, when he was hardly sixteen years and started his initial career as a tailor at Kalina, Mumbai. By that time his father late Shri Madhav Kamath had opened a small shop dealing with tobacco at Borivali, a western suburb of Mumbai and he called his son young Harischandra to join him in his business. Both father and son carried on the business and after the demise of the father late Shri Harischandra Kamath continued the business.

2. Business Performance and Progress

From the very beginning late Shri Harischandra Kamath devoted himself whole-heartedly to his business. He used to meet main suppliers of the tobacco and sell in retail to his customers through personal contact with a view to maintaining high quality. Seeing his sincerity and meticulous approach, certain wholesale dealers assured him to supply best quality product. After ensuring assured supply of top quality tobacco and other materials, he switched over to manufacture of beedies.

He prepared beedies of different sizes to suit the pockets of the customers. To start with, much of the work he had to attend personally, right from rolling the beedies, testing the quality etc till marketing. Since he had to compete with the established brands, he maintained superior quality of his products throughout. His market was confined to Dahisar, Borivali and Kandivali and a particular type of beedies found a market in Gujarat.

Encouraged by the success achieved in beedi manufacturing and marketing, he diversified his business in arecanut (supari). He purchased raw supari from most reliable suppliers, roasted them at a particular temperature and sold as whole nuts or in pieces and also as slices known as Katrisupari. Nuts roasted by default at a temperature slightly above the normal were liked by clients in U.S.A. The experience gained in preparing and marketing both the products without any brand name eventually led him to sell the best variety of tobacco under the brand name "Haathi Chaap" in 1973 which gained popularity leading to increase in his business many fold under this brand name which continued unabated till his death in March 2013.

3. Continuation of Legacy

Though the business of "Haathi Chaap "ended with the end of Shri Kamath, his daughter Smt. Shobha Kulkarni along with her husband Shri Vinayak Kulkarni have since started their own brand named "Kamath Pandarpuri:" as per the wishes of her father that any new brand under which his (late Shri Kamath) business would be carried on by his successors should bear the prefix "Kamath" to the new brand name or new product that would be introduced in his absence. Smt and Shri Kulkarnis continue the business with diversification by using latest technology in this field and have expanded their business and market with better results.

4. A Great Religious Person

Late Shri Kamath has been accredited with several religious activities some of which are worth mentioning.

i. He donated gold for gold-plating of the door of sanctum – sanctorum of Sri Venkatramana Temple, Karkala and also of gold kalash. He also donated a gold necklace to Lord Venkatramana, Karkala and gold for the gopuram of the same temple.

ii. He contributed substantial amount for a new dining hall of Sri Venkatramana Temple, Karkala. Similarly, he has given donation to various other temples.

iii. He was instrumental for complete renovation of Kamakshi Temple at Bhatkal, North Kanara Dist.

iv. Apart from generous contributions to various religious purposes / institutions mentioned above he performed Sahasra Gayatri Japa in the presence of H.H. Shrimad Sudhindra Tirtha Swamiji, Mathadhipati of Sri Kashi Math Samsthan and Pattashishya H.H. Shrimad Samyameendra Tirtha Swamiji.

v. Further, he used to perform various types of homas and havans and other rituals in his house on various occasions.

5. Philanthropic and Social Activities

Late Shri Kamath was a man of charity and a social worker. He has given generous donations to certain mental hospitals, Baba Amte Leprosy Hospital, old age homes, schools for blind and also for adivasi rehabilitation. He has also given medical aid for treatment of cancer and heart diseases to poor people. Providing educational assistance to economically deserving students was his prime concern which generous activity is being continued by his daughter Smt. Shobha Kulkarni in reminiscence of her father's generous acts.

In addition to his active involvement in religious, charitable and social activities he used to give suitable and timely guidance to certain people in business activities.

6. Family Life

Late Shri Kamath led a contented family life with his wife [redacted] Smt. Ramabai and two daughters. He was a friend, philosopher and guide to his grandchildren. His granddaughter Akshaya recalls, "Anna (late Shri Kamath was affectionately addressed as "Anna" by grandchildren) instilled in me certain important values of life from my childhood, the significance of which I did not know at that time but now I realize the importance as some of them have been instrumental in shaping my personality and I will carry forward the same to my future generations". His grandson Master Ashish Kulkarni, an Engineer in Information Technology, gives full credit for grooming him and for development of his personality to late Shri Kamath and late Smt. Ramabai, his grandmother. Master Kulkarni expresses his gratitude to his grandfather who motivated him in every aspect of his life, especially, his education. "It was my beloved grandfather" says Master Ashish, "who inculcated in me the significance of most sacred Gayatri Mantra and he prevailed over me to do Gayatri Japa daily".

7. His Blessed End

At the age of 85 late Shri Kamath decided to go to Tirumala – Tirupati, presumably for the last time to have the darshan of Shree Venkateshwara. He wished to perform certain rituals there and all arrangements for the same were made in the Sringeri Math on the Tirumala Hills praying for his good health and longevity. As late Shri Kamath had made a donation of ₹ 5 lakhs to the temple and Rs. 5 lakhs for Annadana Seva long back, as per norms, a group of 4 people could attend Udayasthamana Seva thrice a year as per which the darshan of Lord Balaji can be had from a close proximity for one hour in early morning and one hour in the evening. As per schedule and as the first phase of Udayasthamana Seva, the darshan of the Lord was arranged in the evening of 26/03/2013 for late Shri Kamath and his wife Smt. Ramabai and Shri M. Pundalika Shenoy and wife, an elderly couple who were close family friends and well-wishers of late Shri Kamath. Accordingly, the entire group had the Divine darshan to the content of

their hearts. While standing before the life-size Divine idol, the archak present there gave a handful of tulsi leaves to Kamath couple and blessed them. After having the Darshan, the entire group came out of the sanctum-sanctorum of the Temple and were about to enter a small gudi (temple) of Vakulamalika (Bakuladevi), (the foster mother of the Lord during his incarnation as Shreenivasa as per Shree Venkatesha Purana) which is very near the main Temple on a raised verandah with three stairs to climb, late Shri Kamath expressed weariness to climb and chose to sit on one of the steps while asking others to proceed. Seeing his plight Shri Shenoy enquired late Shri Kamath as to how he enjoyed the Darshan of Lord Balaji. Instant came the reply in Konkani "AANAAND JAALLYE" (I felt very very Blissful) as his parting words. No sooner he completed uttering those words he leaned on the shoulders of Shri Shenoy, obviously, breathing his last. This was a very rare and most honourable end of a mortal in the precincts of the All-merciful Lord. It was Tuesday, the 26th March 2013, the Phalguna Shukla Chaturdashi i.e. the day of Kamadahana (Holi) in Uttarayana, an auspicious day as per Hindu belief and customs. He surrendered himself at the august feet of Lord Venkateshwara expressing inexplicable bliss on his lips while marching forward to a more blissful destination.

Editor

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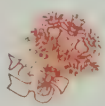


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Saraswat Kusum

A. Rama Nayak

Pioneer of Udipi Hotels in Mumbai



Culinary Science has since made remarkable advance starting from the kitchens of ordinary households in remote parts of coastal districts of Karnataka managed by simple womenfolks of Saraswats, to various towns, cities and metropolis during the last one century and the person who brought it to Bombay, now Mumbai was late Shri A. Rama Nayak. He was a revolutionary who invigorated the taste buds of millions of people to relish those delicacies from those districts produced under the brand name "Udipi". He popularized the same and carved out a unique status and a permanent place to those items in the world of hospitality. Starting his career as an ordinary cook, he rose to become a Master Chef and finally the emperor of chain of Udipi group of hotels in Bombay maintaining the supremacy and professional excellence throughout his career spanning over more than six decades. His legacy is being carried forward by his successors in Mumbai today.

1. Early Life of Struggle

Late Shri A. Rama Nayak was born on 2May 1902 at Akkar (Yekkar), a small village near Bajpe in the erstwhile South Kanara Dist., Karnataka, to late Shri Manjunath Nayak and late Smt. Saraswati Nayak.

He (late Shri Rama Nayak) lost his father when he was just 4 years and being the only child, he had to look after his widowed mother. In search of livelihood he left his native place and went to Mangalore, the nearest developing city when he was hardly 11 years old. Finding no promise to eke out a simple living there at Mangalore, he left for Bombay, now Mumbai, by sea route in 1918 (during World War I) when he was just 16 years. He touched the shores of Bombay without any money in his pocket. The only capital with which he made the courageous entry into the great metropolis was his knowledge in culinary science and art. He started his life cooking food for bachelors in Saraswat Colony at Santacruz and thereafter to inmates of Sri Ramakrishna Mission at Khar, Bombay. Thereafter he joined as the main cook in Hotel Gopalashram in Fort area, Bombay, a hotel most sought

after by G.S.B. Community people and others from South Kanara Dist. working in Fort area of Bombay because of availability of delicious food of their liking introduced by late Shri Nayak in that hotel till he started "Udipi Shri Krishna Boarding", i.e. his own hotel at Matunga, Bombay in 1942.

2. Success Story

Late Shri Rama Nayak's success story in his professional field started with establishing his first hotel in 1942 mentioned above. However, his success story is not mere history restricted to his lifetime, but it is a living legend. He nurtured his business by dedicating himself to his profession and also by respecting certain ethical values. He was very much meticulous in deciding the menu keeping in view the requirements of a balanced diet with regard to availability of seasonal vegetables and with topmost concern for health, hygiene and taste of the diners. He never compromised with the quality of the food served and other delicacies supplied in his restaurants. These good features attracted the customers who started thronging to his hotels undermining long queues especially on Sunday, other holidays and festivals. He kept personal contact with each and every customer addressing him by his first name in his mother tongue as he was conversant with more than half a dozen languages. This personal touch and friendly approach made him popular that his customers used to call him Ram Maam affectionately.

The initial success gained with good patronization by valuable customers emboldened late Shri Nayak and he started opening chain of restaurants one after another in different places in Bombay since 1942 and the last being in 1979 in King's Circle, all under the brand name "Udipi". In fact, Ram Maam was the first to introduce the concept of Udipi Restaurants in Bombay and therefore it might not be an exaggeration to say that late Rama Nayak brought Udipi to Bombay. His contribution to his profession remains inconclusive if no mention is made about his human approach. One of his hotels was at Chinch Bunder near sea port known as Bhaucha Dhaka in Bombay. A special feature, rather a humanitarian aspect of this

hotel was that for many of the visitors from Mangalore landing at that port by ship, his hotel was the initial refuge to those who did not have any residential facilities in Bombay. Driven by his own experience of difficult days when he landed in Bombay, late Ram Maam did not hesitate to provide shelter and also food to those people till they made alternative arrangements. This generous gesture earned him the title "Annadata" (provider of nourishment), given initially by those beneficiaries of his philanthropic treatment and later by all his customers who had benefitted from nutritious, healthy, and hygienic and delicious meals and other delicacies provided by him at comparatively reasonable rates. While his hotel at Chinch Bunder provided initial shelter to needy persons, his other restaurants were, very often, visited by elite people as his customers comprising film personalities, industrialists, politicians etc including freedom fighters of pre-independent era and late Shri Ram Maam perchance had to act as a conduit to disseminate valuable information with positive intent and for a noble cause. Among the various visitors of the day late Shri Sane Guruji was one whose simple living and high thinking had profound influence on late Ram Maam who evinced interest in Gandhian philosophy.

3. Interest and Involvement in Other Activities

Though late Shri Rama Nayak's core activity was related to hotel industry, he did not restrict it to that end alone. He was a man with abounding interest and liking for art and fine arts, music and dance, HarikathaKirtan and above all, Yakshagana Bayalata. He had great love and respect for Hindustani Classical Music and a liking and fascination for Yakshagana Bayalata, a unique cultural dance-drama and music of South Kanara and North Kanara districts of Karnataka. He was a great patron of "Janapriya Yakshagana Kala Mandal" Kurla, Mumbai which was blessed by H.H. Shrimad Sudhindra Tirtha Swamiji, Mathadhipati of Sri Kashi Math Samsthan, Varanasi. Because of his (late Shri Nayak's) unstinted support for Yakashagana Bayalata, a hall was named after him as "A. Rama Nayak Hall" by the said Kala Mandal in their office at Kurla. Under the banner of Bombay

Ramayana Kirtana Committee he arranged Konkani Harikirtans in the famous Sukrateendra Nagar, King's Circle for more than a decade. He also arranged Harikathakirtans by inviting renowned Harikatha kirtankars late Shri Bhadragiri Achutdas Pai and his brother late Shri Keshavdas Pai on several special occasions. He used to attend on every Monday Sangeet Natak such as "Sangeet Manapamana", "Sangeet Soubhadra" and plays like "Ekach Pyala" at the famous Shivaji Mandir, Dadar.

4. A Staunch Religious Person

Late Shri Rama Nayak was a great religious person. He never failed in doing Sandhyavandana every morning, the most important ritual a Brahmin is required to do every day. His routine daily work would start after this and prayers in a nearby temple. He used to perform several other pujas and vritas in his house as also in temples. He was an ardent devotee of H.H. Shrimad Sudhindra Tirtha Swamiji and never missed any opportunity of meeting the Swamiji and seeking blessings whenever Swamiji was camping in Bombay.

5. Unique Honour and Titles

Being the forerunner of Udipi Hotels and restaurants in Bombay, he was honoured with the title, "Father of Udipi Hotels" by the Hotel Association. Because of his invaluable contribution to the hotel industry through which he offered humbly his culinary services to millions of people of Bombay for more than six decades, the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai honoured him by naming the garden at King's Circle as "Udipi A Rama Nayak Udyan".

6. A True Karmayogi

Late Shri Rama Nayak was a true Karmayogi, a workaholic who worked relentlessly throughout his life doing yeoman service providing nourishment to millions of Bombaites (Mumbaikars). Even at the age of 79 this septuagenarian

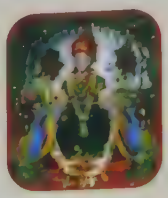
was in his workplace till Sunday the 29th March 1981, a day before his departure from this mortal world. His Karmabhoomi was his hotel / restaurant and the kitchen was his laboratory where this great scientist carried out different experiments in culinary science to arrive at best results to satiate the primary need of humans.

7. Parting Tributes

Monday the 30th March 1981 was a sad day and a day of mourning not only for boarders of Udipi group of hotels and restaurants spread over Mumbai but also those people and institutions supported and patronized by late Shri Rama Nayak. In his condolence meeting held after his demise on 30 March 1981, late Shri M.D. Lotlikar, Trustee of Indian Education Society and President of Cosmopolitan club in his speech said, "As late Ram Maam was a great religious and spiritual person, he brought Harikatha kirtans, Yakshagana Bayalatas and presently, the well-known G.S.B. Seva Mandal's Ganeshotsava every year to the Cosmopolitan Club ground as a result of which this place has been hallowed. I therefore hereby declare the hall in the Cosmopolitan Club as "A Rama Nayak Hall". Late Shri M.R. Pai, an eminent scholar / economist / and a religious and social activist, and a great admirer of late Shri Rama Nayak, who was also present in the condolence meeting said, "Though Ram Maam admitted honestly that his basic education only upto primary level, I feel he was a postgraduate in the "University of Hard Rocks". These attributes are not mere words of flattery. They had emerged out of genuine love and regards to late Shri Ram Nayak who left this mortal world for a better placement elsewhere.

Editor

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Saraswat Kusum

Shri Mavinkurve Venkatesh Baliga

A Crusader of Revival of Konkani



Konkani is a very ancient language spoken by most of the people settled in Goa and almost all Saraswats in the coastal Karnataka, Kerala and parts of Maharashtra. It is believed and there is sufficient historical evidences to show that this good old language was widely used as mother tongue by millions of people and had a vast literature and rich heritage. However it lost its usage and importance during the oppressive rule of Muslims and later by the Portuguese primarily in Goa and the adjoining areas. After Independence this language has started showing signs of recovery very slowly. However, the perceptible recovery has been made over the last quarter century thanks to a score of dedicated lovers of this language irrespective of caste and religion. But the real credit for making concerted efforts for revival of its past glory and bring it on an even keel with other developed languages can be attributed to Shri Basti Vaman Shenoy and Shri Mavinkurve Venkatesh Baliga who dedicated their entire lives for the cause of Konkani language over the last two decades. If Shri Vaman Shenoy has been honoured with the title "Vishwa Konkani Sardar", there is no reason why Shri Baliga cannot be called / honoured as "Gaurdian of Konkani language". He certainly deserves this honour if one makes a careful review of the crucial role played by him for this purpose and the success achieved by him by working shoulder to shoulder with Shri Vaman Shenoy.

1. Early Life and Education

Shri Mavinkurve Venkatesh Baliga was born on 12 Oct, 1963 in Mangalore, Karnataka state to Shri late Narasimha Baliga and late Smt. Lakshmi Baliga. He passed his Bachelor of Business Management from S.D.M College of Business Management in 1984. From the very college days he utilized his spare time fruitfully by engaging himself in part time jobs and thereby reduce the burden on his parents financially. Since his college was in the morning he started working 1 hour a day in Canara Bank under the scheme "Earn While You Learn" and during

summer vacation he used to work full time for 2 months in the same bank under "Summer Vacation Replacement Scheme". Further, he also worked as an audit clerk under a Chartered Accountant which experience helped him later when he opened his own firm engaged in writing accounts of various firms.

2. A Career with Multiple Activities

Shri Baliga's career has its own speciality covering various activities. Immediately after passing B.B.M he started his career as an accountant in a firm in Chennai. After working there for about 1 ½ year, he started his own firm for keeping accounts of certain private firms. After a couple of years he opened a sales promotion agency conducting promotional activities of various multinational companies for consumer goods. In 1991 he started an advertising agency "VEBAS Advertisers and Media Consultants" which is still in operation. Finally, in 2007 he made an entry in journalism by starting a Konkani weekly called Kodial Khaber of which he is the owner, publisher and editor. During the last 6 years this only weekly of its kind has made perceptible progress in all metropolitan cities and towns and especially in coastal districts of Karnataka where Konkani speaking people are in good number.

3. Contribution for Revival of Konkani

Shri Venkatesh Baliga has dedicated his life to revive the glory of Konkani language and its literature and rich tradition which had been under the dark shadow for centuries during the reign of oppressive rulers, especially the abominable Portuguese. He has worked and is continuing his struggle under the able guidance of his mentor and forerunner Shri Basti Vaman Shenoy. Shri Baliga made his debut in 1992 i.e. at a very early age when he was not even thirty years old, by joining Konkani Basha Mandal. Thereafter, there has been no let-up in his onward march towards the perceived goal. He was the Publicity Committee Chairman of the First World Konkani Convention held in Mangalore in 1995. During the short period of about two decades, since 1992 till today, there has been not a single instance where Shri Baliga has not participated either as a member or

a Secretary or a Chairman of any meeting, convention or conference for propagation of Konkani. He has devoted his time, energy and soul for the cause of Konkani. It is not considered very much necessary to list out the titles he received or the honours conferred on him at various fora. What is expedient is to note that whichever forum in which he participated and in whatever capacity, be it a part of Visionary Team to build World Konkani Centre in Mangalore, or formation of Vishwa Konkani Research Centre or starting Vishwa Konkani Scholarship Programme, he lived upto its expectation and turned it out a success, if not instantly but over a period.

Presently, he is the President, Konkani Samaskrutik Sangha 2012-13 and Chief Convener of Konkani Sammelan held in 2013. As a prestigious assignment, he attended Konkani Sammelan held at New Jersey (U.S.A. in July 2012). To sum up, Shri Baliga is one of the most important persons engaged in spreading the message of Konkani from door to door not only of Konkani speaking people but also lovers of Konkani and its rich tradition as well.

4. A True Saraswat

Shri Baliga served the cause of Saraswats and unification of various denominations of Saraswats spread over in different parts of the country. He was the Publicity Committee Chairman of First World Saraswat Sammelan held in Mangalore in 1999 in the august presence of Swamijis of all four Mutts of Sarawat Community. He was awarded "Saraswat Puraskar" by H.H. Shrimad Sudhindra Tirtha Swamiji in 1999.

5. Other Activities

i. Shri Baliga is a good actor. He has acted in Konkani dramas "Ganti" and "Bhagwan Vedavyas", shows of which have been held all over India.

ii. He has also acted in a Tulu film "Badi" (dowry) directed by Shri Richard Castellino.

iii. He has brought out a collection if editorials named "Manna Dakun".

iv. He was the President, Mangalore Junior Chamber 1998.

v. He was also the Secretary and the Treasurer of Lions Club, Mangalore.

vi. He was the co-editor of Lions Directory.

vii. As the President of Mangalore Junior Chamber, he was instrumental in training more than 250 youth in leadership quality. He has bagged National Award for "Outstanding Public Relation and Training Programme".

6. Contented Family Life

Shri Baliga is leading a contented family life with Smt.Vidya Baliga as his life partner who is a homemaker He is having one daughter who is studying Engineering (1st year) and a son who is in 9th standard.

The contribution made by Shri Mavinkurve Venkatesh Baliga for revival of Konkani language and its literature and culture and for unification of Saraswats deserve to be appreciated and the whole Konkani world and the entire Saraswat Community owe their indebtedness to this young man who has just completed half a century. Brimming with abundant energy and abounding vigour and enthusiasm he spears ahead along with the team of path finders and torch bearers like Shri Basti Vaman Shenoy, to fulfil the goal visualized by them. We, the members of the G.S.B. Sabha, Dahisar – Borivali wish them good luck in their noble endeavour.

Editor

Celebration of Brahma Rathotsava at Dahisar Sri Kashi Math and Sri Vittal Rakhumai Mandir

By Ranjal Venkatraya Shenoy



A grand six-day Brahma Rathotsava was celebrated by Dahisar Sri Kashi Math and Sri Vittal Rakhumai Mandir from 4th to 9th December 2013 at Dahisar, a suburb of Greater Mumbai. It is the first of its kind not only in the history of Sri Kashi Math Samsthan having its presence at 37 places spread over India, but also in the entire Maharashtra State because of the gigantic size of the Rath with 41 feet height. Performing Brahma Rathotsava in Dahisar Sri Kashi Math Mandir was the realization of long cherished wish of H.H. Shrimad Sudhindra Tirtha Swamiji, Mathadhipati of Sri Kashi Math Samsthan, Varanasi.

Among the various types of Utsavas [taking the principal deities (Utsava Moorthis) of the temples ceremoniously in procession carrying them in decorated carriers like Palanquin or Mantap or four-wheeled carriages called Vahanas such as Garuda Vahana, Shesha Vahana, Hanuma Vahana or Rath (Chariot) pulled by ropes by devotees through the main streets (car street) accompanied by musical instruments], Rathotsava is considered to be the foremost one where beautifully decorated deity (Utsava Moorthy) is seated at the centre place of the Rath and taken in procession pulled by ropes through the main street of the town or city accompanied by thousands of people. Such Rathotsavas (car festivals) are common in certain famous temples in the south, though however, they are very rare in Mumbai. Dahisar Sri Kashi Math and Sri Vittal Rakhumai Mandir got the great opportunity and distinction to celebrate this unique Brahma Rathotsava for the first time in Dahisar in December 2013. It is unique for several reasons. –

1. It is a chariot of gigantic size with a height of 41 feet and hence called Brahma Rath,

2. It has been celebrated for full six days performing various rituals strictly according to accepted norms, customs, traditions and practices, through the learned Vaidiks,
3. It has been celebrated in the august presence of H.H. Shrimad Sudhindra Tirtha Swamiji and Pattashisya H.H. Shrimad Samyameendra Tirtha Swamiji, and

4. Participation in the six-day celebration was open to all irrespective of caste, creed & community.

The six-day function started with Dhwajarohana on 4th December 2013 in the gracious presence of H.H. Shrimad Sudhindra Tirtha Swamiji with a congregation of about 700 Samaj Bandhavas and other devotees. The significance of Dhwajarohana is raising the metal image of Garuda (bird king) aloft a Dhawajasthambha (Dhawajasthambha referred to above is about 39 feet high) signifying extending invitation through Garuda to all Gods and Goddesses to attend Ratharohana and RathaYatra of Lord Vishnu. The celebrations on first day i.e. Dhwajarohana day, followed by second, third and fourth days were marked by performing various types of Poojas, Yajnya, Palki Utsav and Vasanta Pooja every day and the speciality of fourth day i.e. on 7th December 2013 was Mrigabete Utsav (hunting wild animals in the jungle) which was performed in the garden of Saraswat Cultural and Recreation Ground of G.S.B. Sabha, Dahsiar – Borivali.

The most important function of six-day celebration was Ratharohana and Ratha Yatra held on Sunday the 8th December 2013 with majestic Utsava Moorthies of Sri Vittal Rakhumai graciously occupying the centre seat of beautifully decorated Brahma Rath and giving the Blissful Darshan to thousands of devotees arrived from different parts of Mumbai as also the country. The most important feature of this fifth day function of Rathotsava was venerable presence of H.H. Shrimad Sudhindra Tirtha Swamiji. While the elder Swamiji did Aarti to Utsava Moorthies on the Rath, Shishya Swamiji

blessed Yajamanas (main sevadars) of five days functions, VIPs and head of various important institutions with gandhaprasad on the Rath. Thereafter, the Brahma Rath was taken in procession pulled by thousands of people. Most of the people who participated in this function took the opportunity to offer coconuts and bananas and karpur aarti to the Lord on the Rath, for which elaborate and systematic arrangements were made by Math-Mandir authorities, and got the blessings in the form of Gandhaprasad.

The six-day celebration ended ceremoniously on 9th December 2013 with Avabhrata Snana (Okuli) on the Saraswat Cultural Ground referred to above, Shree Krishna-Satyabhama Conversation, a humourous epical episode and finally distribution of Ankuraprasad to all the devotees congregated in the temple. Thus the entire celebration of Brahma Rathotsava is remembered as "Dahisar Festival" and will be eagerly awaited year after year.

Any description of the Rathotsava event remains inconclusive without a mention about the Rathashilpi. This gigantic Brahma Rath was built by Shri Laxminarayan Acharya and his son Shri Rajagopala Acharya from Koteshwar near Kundapur who are renowed Rathashilpies. These father and son duo had employed their skills and time for nearly two years to make this Rath as per religious customs and norms specified by H.H. Shrimad Sudhindra Tirtha Swamiji.

In fine, the significance of Rathotsava can be summarised as under –

रूथारूढं केशवं द्रष्ट्वा पुनर्जन्मो न विद्यते।

[By seeing the image of Lord Vishnu seated in the Rath (chariot), one ceases to have rebirth, i.e. one gets relieved from the pangs of recurrence of birth and death]

The philosophy underlying in the above statement can be interpreted as under-

The human body itself is the Rath of the Deity which is Consciousness (Atman). Rath is the body of the Deity made manifest. So too, the body is the

Rath of the Deity made manifest. Same message is conveyed in Kathopanishad in following sloka-

आत्मानं रथिनं विध्दि शरीरं रथमेव तु।

बुाध्दिं तु सारथिं विध्दि मनः प्रग्रहमेव च।।

(Kathopanishad III – 3)

[Know the Atman as the master within the chariot (Rath) and the body as the chariot, the intelligence (buddhi) as the charioteer and the mind (manas) as the reins.]

The human personality comprising body, mind and intellect is compared to a chariot and the soul (consciousness) to the presiding deity who leads our life. If one understands this imagery of chariot and realizes the Atman within him, he is relieved of the excruciating movement in the cycle of births and deaths.

ANANT JYOT- Light Up a Life

Just ONE rupee per person in a family, per day,
will make someone among us SMILE .....

We all know the story of a "Thirsty Crow" which had put pebbles one by one in a pot and raised the water to a level where it became easy for it to quench its thirst.....

Based on the above , **G.S.B Sabha Dahisar-Borivali (Regd.)** during Navaratri Celebration last year had introduced a novel scheme named – **"Anant Jyot"** for helping some of our Samaj Bandhavas to quench their thirst for education by meeting their financial requirement by collection of funds in a small way – bit by bit , pebble by pebble as in the above story.

Blessed by:

This initiative has been **blessed by Mother Saraswati , The Goddess of Knowledge.**

Our revered **H.H. Shrimad Sudhindra Tirtha Swamiji, Mathadhipati of Sri Kashi Math Samsthan, Varanasi** has **personally blessed** this initiative and also those participating in it with **"Devu Baren Kartollo" ashirwada.**

Who can participate?

Irrespective of the age, place of stay etc **ANY ONE can participate in this noble cause.**

What's in it for Me and Why one should participate?

Participation inculcates the spirit of "Regular Savings", "Understanding the Value of Money" and also "Joy of Giving" to others in the young and old.

"Anant Jyot" – its theme

Here the interested child / parents, by registering his/her name and contact details, collects the money box which is in form of "Smiley "and with a message "we will make someone SMILE".

Duration : It is expected to be continuous unless one wishes to discontinue.

Scheme Operation :Just drop one rupee per day, per member in the family in the box. Also on good occasions the family members can put money in this box as "Kanika" too.

When the box is full : If the box is full and should one wish to continue further, please call the Sabha representative or deposit the same at the Sabha office. They will empty the box and issue receipt for the money collected and then can continue further.

Want do discontinue : If any of the registered takers of these boxes is / are not interested to continue they have to call on the Sabha representative or return the same at the Sabha Office.

Accounting : The money so collected will be used for the said purpose and will be properly accounted, audited and freeship given only after proper scrutiny by the Sabha's Managing Committee and as per the policy.

Request : Preserve the Money Box as it can be used again and again.

Cost : Nominal fee is charged for the money box.

Be the Light: : "Anant Jyot " money box is purposely not sealed. There were people who came with the view that when the money box is full, there is a chance of it being opened by the child and the money so collected may be used for personal benefit and the sole purpose will be defeated.

We don't anticipate any such possibility of the money being used by certain innocent children when the box is full. In such an eventuality **the parents play a very important role in explaining to the child the "Value of money", "Joy of Giving" and being the light.**

Progress : **2012,** the year of inception, there were **46 families** who voluntarily supported this noble cause of the Sabha. With dedicated members of GSB Sabha Dahisar-Borivali, Managing Committee, energetic volunteers and its Youth Brigade ,together with Swamiji's blessings , it is possible to make "Anant Jyot" Smiley form a part of each and every GSB family.

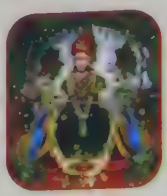
Appeal : Please participate whole- heartedly and encourage others too.

For further details get in touch with the Sabha at the following address and the representatives will get in touch with you.

G.S.B. Sabha Dahisar- Borivali (Regd)
Shop no 1 and 2, Bldg no. 23, Shakti Nagar, Dahisar (E) Mumbai 400 068.
Tel : 4014 4673
email : sabha@gsbsabhadahisarborivali.org / gsbdb@rediffmail.com

A small beginning in saving habit for the Noble cause will bring smile on the face of the less fortunate , as depicted on the "Money Box".....and remember Smile always multiplies and brings delight to ALL .....

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Email: fairnetbangalore@gmail.com

Saraswat Kusum

SARASWAT CULTURAL AND RECREATION CENTRE

Background

It was about six years back G.S.B. Sabha, Dahisar - Borivali, as a part of its social agenda took upon the task of developing a plot of 1.76 acres of vacant land in Dahisar (East) got allotted from Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (M.C.G.M.) on adoption basis for developing it as a recreation ground. To undertake this gigantic work, Sabha had created a separate unit named Saraswat Cultural and Recreation Centre (S.C.R.C.) under its (Sabha's) overall control and supervision and engaged itself in developing the ground by providing certain important facilities as stipulated by M.C.G.M in their terms and conditions of allotment within the time-frame specified. Some important facilities required to be provided are as indicated below.

Facilities / Items of development

In response to MCGM's expectations, the Sabha / SCRC has avowed itself to provide following facilities.

1. Provision of green cover with planting mix of trees and flower plants.

2. Senior Citizens' park / Children's park.

3. Walking track / Joggers track

4. Community hall for cultural and social activities like music, dance classes, yoga classes, library, gymnasium, indoor games etc and for public meetings.

5. Public toilet facilities.

Cost Estimates:

On the basis of certain realistic assessment made about a couple of years back, total cost estimate for the entire project worked out to about Rs. 6.00 crores. Of the various items of development as envisaged above, Sabha has since provided following facilities. As regards developmental items remaining, Sabha has received assurances from certain banks, corporates, industrialists to sponsor / fund certain identified development works. Sabha is pursuing with them vigourously.

Progress made so far

During the last 6 years Sabha has made perceptible progress by providing following facilities.

1. Ground levelling and provision of certain basic infrastructure facilities such as electricity, water supply, drainage facilities and public toiletry.

2. Providing green cover by planting mix of trees and flower plants.

3. Senior citizens' park with lawn all around and sitting arrangements.

4. Walking / jogging track along the boundary lines.

5. Tulsi Vrindavan, which was inaugurated by H.H. Shrimad Sudhindra Tirth Swamiji in June 2009.

Agenda on hand

Though appreciable progress has been made so far, much remains to be accomplished as per the stipulations of M.C.G.M. Mobilisation of requisite funds is the top priority of the Sabha for which vigourous fund collection drive is engaging its attention now.

Important functions held on the Ground

It is a matter of great satisfaction that this Recreation Ground has over the years, proved to be an excellent venue for holding quite a good number of big functions (within the purview of stipulations of M.C.G.M.) accommodating large crowds. The Sabha has so far held many such cultural and religious functions / festivals, big and small on grand scale, certain important of which are.

a) Vriksharopana ceremony on Oct 2nd, 2007.

b) Charana Sparsha ceremony on February 21st, 2008 by inviting H.H. Sudhindra Tirtha Swamiji, Mathadhipati of Sri Kashi Math Samsthan, Varanasi.

c) Ten day Navratri Festival for six consecutive years from 2008 to 2013.

d) Sri Mahalaxmi Pooja on Dec 26th, 2010 as a part of Silver Jubilee Commemorative celebration.

e) Tulsi Pooja during Navaratri in 2011 to 2013.

f) Haldi Kumkum during Navratri Festivals in all six years, and Makar Sankranti during 2011 - 13.

g) It is a matter of great pride and satisfaction that our Param Poojya Shrimad Sudhindra Tirtha Swamiji, during Swamiji's camping at Dahisar Sri Kashi Math in connection with Chaturmasa Vrita visited our ground on the first day of the fourth Navratri Festival and blessed the devotees assembled there. Incidentally, it may be recalled that Swamiji had visited this place on the first Navaratri festival in 2008 to do Pratishthapana (consecration) of the idol of Goddess Saraswati.

Unfinished Agenda

Though Sabha has made considerable progress with regard to development of the ground and provision of most of the facilities as stipulated by M.C.G.M., certain other important facilities are awaiting development. We know for certain that there is need for proper planning and conscientious efforts on the part of the Managing Committee to meet the challenge. In this connection Sabha has constituted in right earnest an Advisory Board comprising certain resourceful members of our Community and certain generous individuals from the society to advise guide and also provide financial support to complete the project on hand. We are confident that with proper direction and financial support assured by certain donors, it would be possible to fulfil soon the tasks ahead.

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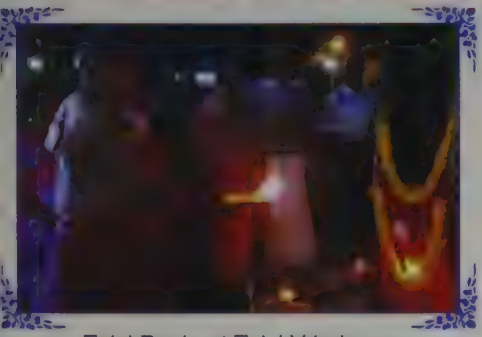
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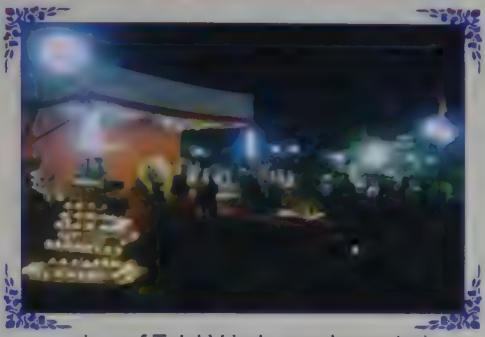
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Saraswat Kusum

Saraswat Cultural and Recreation Center- Rathotsav celebration of Dahisar Sri Kashi Math and Sri Vittal Rakhumai Mandir



Tulsi Pooja at Tulsi Vrindavan



view of Tulsi Vrindavan decorated with oil lamps during Mrigabete



H.H. Shrimad Samyamindra Swamiji visit during Mrigabete at Tulsi Vrindavan



H.H. Shrimad Samyamindra Swamiji watching Samaj Bhandavas during Rathotsava



Palki Utsava of Lord Vithal Rukhumai during Rathotsava on 8th Dec.2013



Samaj Bandhavas gathered at Saraswat Cultural Recreation Centre during Mrigabete

ಓ ದೇವಿ ನಾರಾಯಣೀ ನಮ್ಮೆಲ್ಲಾ ಗ್ರಾಹಕರಿಗೆ ಉತ್ತಮ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ,
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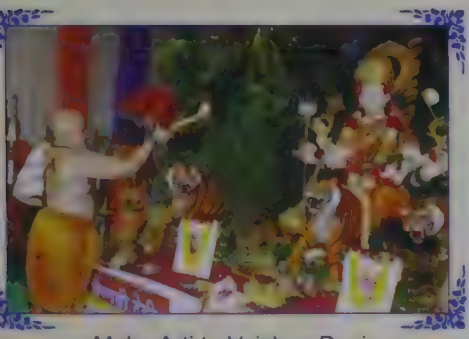
SRI SHARADA DEVI



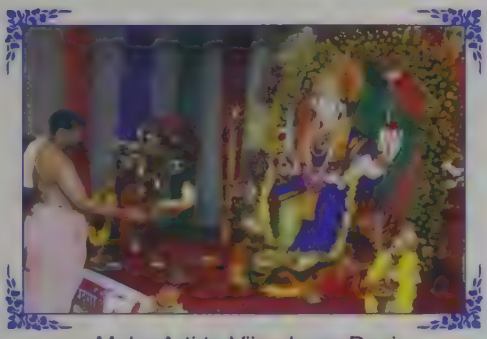
Maha Arti to Saraswati Devi



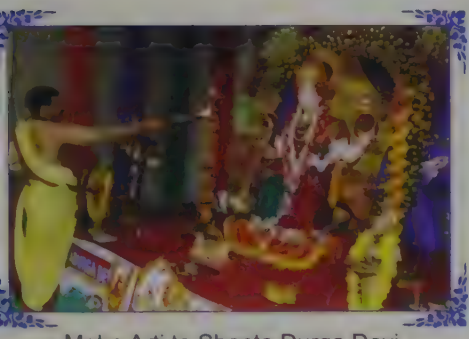
Maha Arti to Annapurna Devi



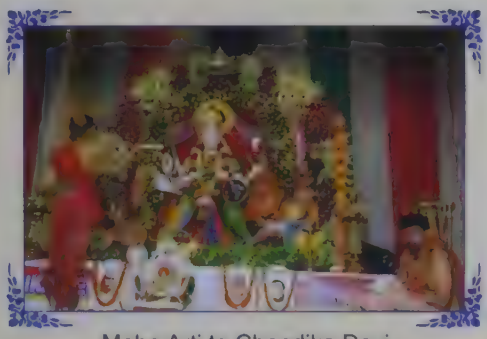
Maha Arti to Vaishno Devi



Maha Arti to Vijaydurga Devi



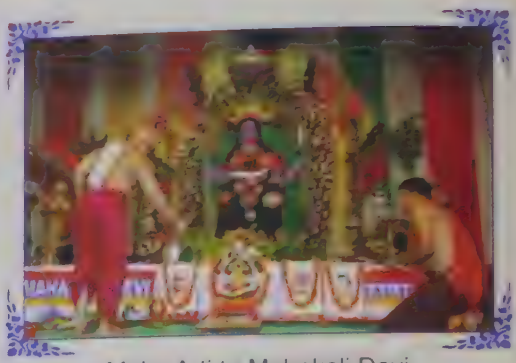
Maha Arti to Shanta Durga Devi



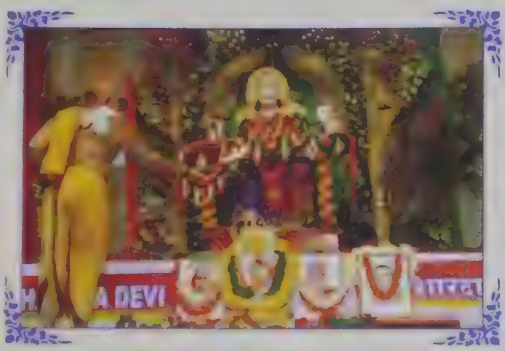
Maha Arti to Chandika Devi



Maha Arti to Laxmi Devi



Maha Arti to Mahakali Devi



Maha Arti to Sharada Devi



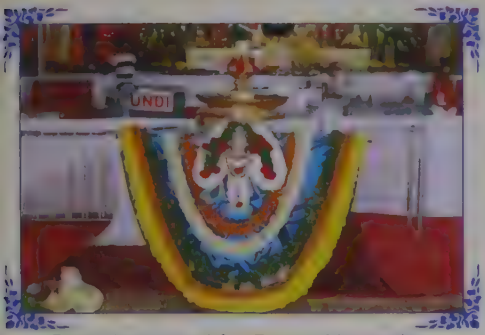
Durga Havan Devi



Laxmi Narayan Hridaya Havan



Chandika Havan



Devi decorated for Durga Namaskar



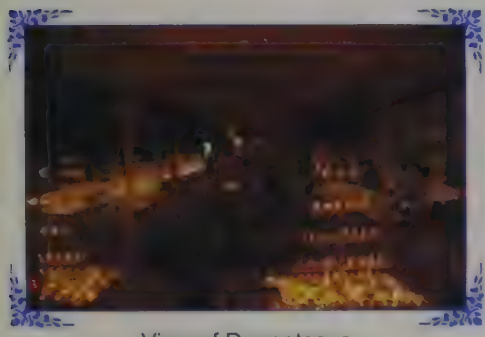
Deeparadhana Pooja Deepas



View of Deeparadhana



Deepas decorated for deeparadhana pooja



View of Deepotsava



Rang Pooja

Navratri Utsav - 2013



Volunteers arranging prasadam



Offering Tulabhara Seva



Smt. Radha H. Kamath
offering Tulabhara Seva



Tulabhara seva by
Suresh Kamath & Family.



Tulabhara seva by kids



Tulabhara Seva by
MLA Shri Vinodji Ghosalkar

Navratri Utsav - 2013



Corporater Smt. Sheetal Mhatre offering Tulabhara seva with Mahila group



Kannikas ready for kannika pooja



Kannika pooja



Kannika pooja Sevedar offering seva to kannikas



Offering to Kannikas by sevedar



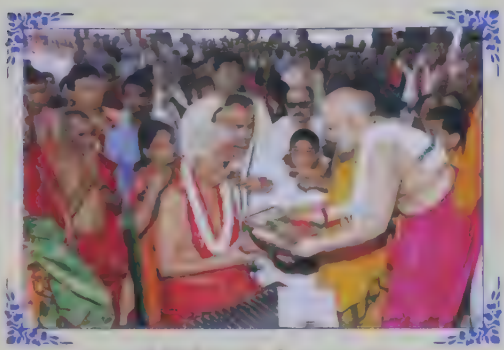
Offering Gold cradle by Mrs. Shobha & Mr. Vinayak Kulkarni



Mrs. Shobha & Mr. Vinayak Kulkarni
receiving Prasadam



Mr. G. Aravind Rao & Family
receiving Prasadam



Ati Vishesh Sevadar
Shri Ramji Baba receiving Prasadam



Mrs. Saguna & Mr. Kamalaksh Kamath
receiving Prasadam



Mr. Varadraj Mallya & Family receiving
nine day annadana seva Prasadam



Mr. Shankar Prabhu & Family receiving
nine day annadana seva Prasadam

Navratri Utsav - 2013



Mr. Dinesh Gadiyar & Family receiving nine day annadana seva Prasadam



Mr. Prabhakar Shetty receiving nine day annadana seva Prasadam



Mr. N. K. Parikh & Family receiving Prasadam



Mr. Sudakar Kamath & Family receiving Chandika Havan Prasadam



Mr. Ganesh Prabhu & Family receiving Chandika Havan Prasadam

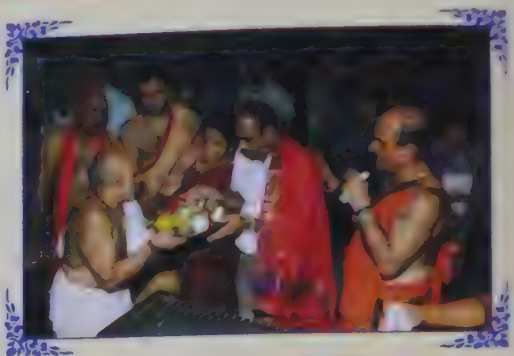


Mr. K.R. Mallya & Family receiving Prasadam

Navratri Utsav - 2013



Mr. Mohandas P. Mallya & Family
receiving Prasadam



Mr. N.V. Pai & Family
receiving Prasadam



Mr. Rajubhai Goradia & Family
receiving Prasadam



Mr. S.J. Shanbhag & Family
receiving Prasadam



Mr. Madhusudan Pai & Family
receiving Prasadam



Shri Harish Shetty Family &
Satish Shetty Family receiving Prasadam

Navratri Utsav - 2013



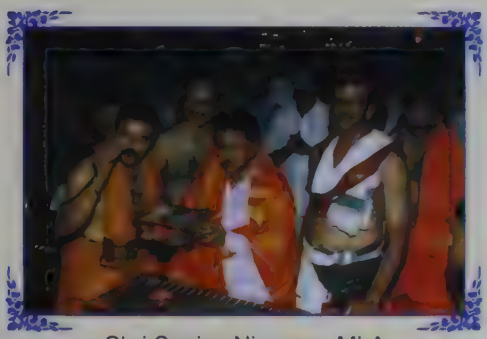
Shri Gurupur Dattanand Bhat
receiving Prasadam



Smt. Radha H. Kamath & Family
receiving Prasadam



Mr. B. S. Kamath & Family
receiving Prasadam



Shri Sanjay Nirupam, MLA
Receiving Prasadam



Corporator Smt. Sheetal Mhatre
receiving Prasadam



Shri Vinodji Gosalkar, MLA
receiving Prasadam

Navratri Utsav - 2013



Shri Gopal Shetty, MLA receiving Prasadam



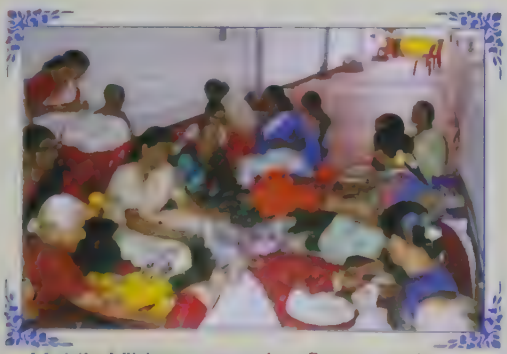
Sevedars gathered to offer deepostava seva



Mrs. Shobha Kulkarni offering deepa during deepostava



Deeparadana seva by sevedars



Mahila Vibhag arranging flower garlands



Haldi Kumkum by Mahila Vibhag

Navratri Utsav - 2013



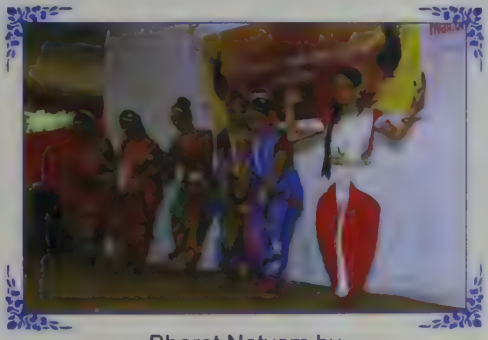
Mahila Volunteers busy in garland making



Blood Donation Camp



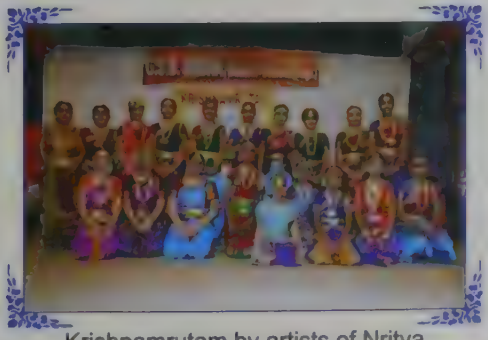
Bhajan Seva by Smt. Suvarni S. Nayak



Bharat Natyam by
Dahisar Maliyali Samajam



View of Yakshagana Bayalata



Krishnamrutam by artists of Nritya
Ranjani Fine Arts Academy

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Classical Dance



Classical Dance by Desciples of Mrs.Tejaswini Lele



Folk dance



Folk dance by children



Group Classical dance

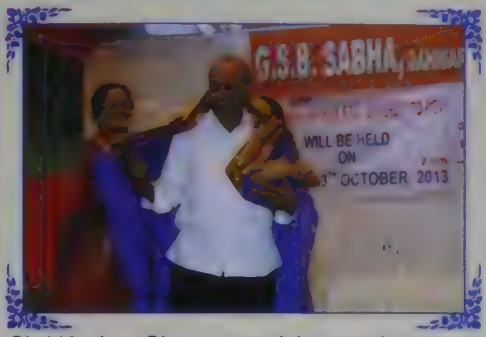


Book distribution on Vijaya Dashami

Navratri Utsav - 2013



View of Garbha Dance



Shri Keshav Shenoy receiving auction saree



Mr. Satish Prabhu & Family
receiving auction saree



Mr. Satyendra Bhandari & Family
receiving auction saree



Mr. H Purushottam Prabhu & Family
receiving auction saree

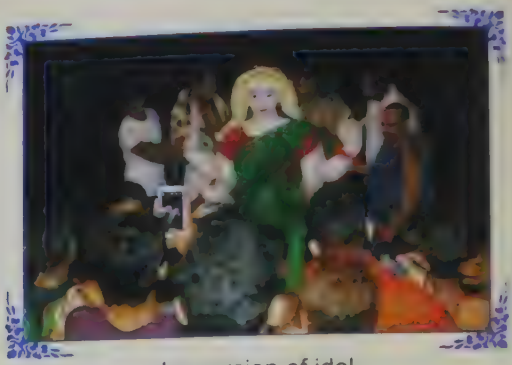


Volunteers before Immersion Procession

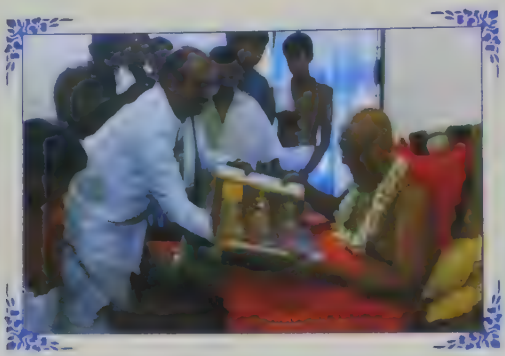
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View of Immersion procession



Immersion of idol



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" I did do something. **I MADE YOU**"

Anant Jyot



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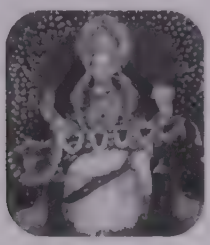
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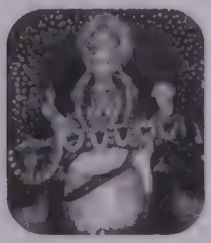
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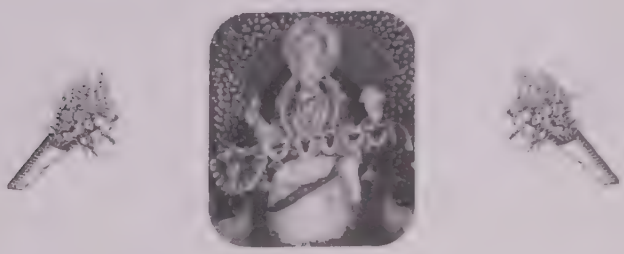
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